The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of

The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXXII

February 15, 1954

NUMBER 18

1. Tourists Are Flocking to Baja California
2. Sioux Sue Great White Father
3. Shrine to Washington's Boyhood Considered
4. Odd Jobs? The World Offers Plenty
5. Air Age Makes Key of Remote Cocos

Servicemen Salute Mount Vernon—Naval vessels always honor the Father of his Country when passing George Washington's stately home on the Potomac, a few miles below Washington, D. C. Soon the entire Nation will observe his birthday.

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 3)

KATHLEEN REVIS

ming, and yachting. Hunters bag deer, wild turkey, quail, and mountain sheep. Stores are stocked with duty-free and untaxed European and South American goods, as well as native silver and leather products, pottery, baskets, and textiles.

The Northern District of Baja California, covering almost 500 miles of the fingerlike peninsula, is the Republic of Mexico's newest State, its twenty-ninth. It contains about seven eighths of the region's estimated 270,000 population and three of its four main towns.

Mexicali, the northern capital, lies in the fertile irrigated delta plains watered by the Colorado River. Cotton, grapes, olives, tomatoes, and peppers are leading crops. Cotton ginning and cottonseed oil production are major industries.

Tijuana, on the border near San Diego, and Ensenada, 65 miles farther south, are the most popular resorts with visiting Americans.

La Paz, near the southern tip, is the peninsula's other important center. Capital of the Southern District, this port was world-renowned for its pearl industry until a mysterious blight attacked the oyster beds fifteen years ago. The Southern District is still administered as a Territory by the Mexican Congress.

Warm, Dry Climate—Although the southern tip of Baja California extends into the Tropics, the climate is generally temperate. In the Ensenada area, the average temperature is 68 degrees in summer, 60 degrees in winter. Rainfall is rare between May and November.

Peninsula waters have long been recognized as one of the world's finest fishing grounds. Commercial fishermen harvest tuna, sardines, mackerel, shrimp, lobsters, and turtles. Sharks yield valuable vitamin oils. Sportsmen battle deepwater marlin and swordfish. Along both coasts yellowtail, striped perch, bonita, and white sea bass abound.

Baja California is also rich in minerals. Gold, silver, copper, iron, manganese, and semiprecious stones have been found in the cactus-spiked hills. Gold rushes of 1870 and 1889 yielded some $15,000,000 worth, but lack of adequate transportation facilities has hindered large-scale mining.

References—Baja California may be located on the Society's map of Mexico and Central America.

For further information, see "Sea Birds of Isla Raza," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1951; and "Baja California Wakes Up," August, 1942. *(Issues of The Magazine 12 months old or less are available to schools and libraries at a specially discounted price of 50¢ a copy. Earlier issues are 65¢ a copy through 1946; $1.00, 1930-1945; $2.00, 1912-1929. Write for prices of issues prior to 1912.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 7, 1952, "Baja California Attains Mexican Statehood."

The following order form may be used (or copied) for requesting the BULLETINS: School Service Division, National Geographic Society, Washington 6, D. C.

Kindly enter ..... subscriptions to the Geographic School Bulletins, published weekly (30 issues) during the school year. (Subscriptions entered at any date extend to that date the succeeding year.)

Address for sending BULLETINS .....

City ..... State .....

I enclose, for each subscription, 75 cents; total amount .....

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
COPYRIGHT, 1954, BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
SUBSCRIPTIONS SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS FOR THIRTY WEEKLY ISSUES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

UMI

LAURENCE M. HUEY

From This Forbidding Bay Come Massive Catches of Fish—Much of Baja California looks like this, but other sections support growing cities, irrigated farmlands, and bustling resorts. Fish landed here, near the head of the Gulf of California, are trucked via the road in the foreground to California, U.S.A.

Bulletin No. 1, February 15, 1954

Tourists Are Flocking to Baja California

Mexico's Baja (Lower) California, one of North America's most scenic yet little known regions, is gradually emerging from its wilderness state.

Throughout the 810-mile-long peninsula jutting south from California, a development boom is under way. In less than a decade the population has doubled. Towns are expanding, and paved highways are being rushed to completion.

Resorts and Dude Ranches—Fishing and canning industries have stepped up production, and irrigation projects promote agriculture. Resorts and dude ranches have sprung up along both the Pacific and the Gulf of California coasts. Nine airfields are in operation.

Baja California has an array of vacation attractions. Sun-drenched white sand beaches nestled in mountain-rimmed bays offer fishing, swim-

site. Digging revealed remains of separate earth-lodge occupations assignable to eighteenth-, seventeenth-, and sixteenth-century Indian farmers. Signs of a much earlier occupation by pre-earth-lodge people were ascribed to A. D. 1000 or before.

Life in 8000 B. C.—Near-by sites belonged to the centuries between Leif Ericson and Columbus. Farther west in South Dakota the archeologists' record of Indian life has been pushed back to 5500 B. C. In other parts of the Great Plains it can be dated from 8000 B. C. by the modern method of measuring radioactivity in wood-carbon remains.

In many cases the earth lodges had been burned, probably by prairie fires long after their abandonment. Beams preserved in the form of charcoal enabled authorities to note differences in detail between earth lodges of prehistory and those minutely described by early explorers.

Between 1650 and 1750 the Spaniards brought the horse to the Plains from the south. It spurred the Indian's pursuit of the buffalo and his nomadic living in portable tepees. The end of the buffalo herds in turn hastened the end of the nomadic culture.

References—South Dakota is shown on the Society's map of the North Central United States.

For additional information, see "Following the Trail of Lewis and Clark," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1953; "South Dakota Keeps Its West Wild," May, 1947; and "Indians of Our Western Plains," July, 1944.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 4, 1953, "Three States Want Sitting Bull's Grave."

Archeologists Reveal a Pre-Sioux Indian Home—This is the floor of an earth lodge, the type of Indian dwelling that preceded the tepee on the Plains. Holes around the edge held timbers which supported the roof. Earth covered the structure, making a permanent, roomy habitation.

RALPH GRAY

Bulletin No. 2, February 15, 1954

Sioux Sue Great White Father

There is still a lot of gold in them thar South Dakota hills, and the Sioux Indians are suing the Great White Father for their share of it, plus payments for claimed back royalties.

The now peaceful descendants of the fierce warriors who fought in the Battle of Little Big Horn, when General Custer's command was massacred, charge they have not received their due under an 1877 agreement. That was when they ceded the Black Hills area (illustration, back cover) in the western portion of the State to the Government.

Richest Gold Mine—Sioux claims now total $61,000,000 for the gold taken from those hills and $30,000,000 for rentals on unceded lands taken over without payment.

Beneath the hilltop town of Lead (pronounced *leed*) lies the mile-deep Homestake Mine, richest source of gold in the Western Hemisphere. It has produced four fifths of the $600,000,000 worth of gold so far taken from the Black Hills. In several recent years the gold output there has exceeded $20,000,000 in value.

Some 23,000 Sioux Indians dwell on nine reservations in South and North Dakota. Once they lived a nomadic life on horseback in pursuit of buffalo, and were the dominant tribe in the Black Hills and on the surrounding northern Great Plains. Fur trappers, gold seekers, and early settlers sent back stories telling of the ferocity and numbers of Sioux. But history shows that these tribesmen were Johnny-come-latelys who had moved there from points east only a century or so earlier.

Their predecessors on the Plains had been agricultural tribes which had lived for centuries in permanent villages of earth lodges. Nomadic tribes pushing eastward for new hunting lands as well as eastern tribes pressed by early white westward expansion were ending the era of earth-lodge dwellers in the Dakotas as the first white explorers arrived.

Earth Lodge Preceded Tepee—The earth lodge was the characteristic dwelling of the Great Plains before the day of the tepee. Earth-walled and sod-roofed, it was a dome-shaped home thirty to sixty feet in diameter. From its door extended a tunnellike entry with movable skin curtains at both ends. Remains of earth-lodge villages may still be seen from North Dakota through Kansas.

New light on earth-lodge living in the Dakotas comes from the unique "salvage-archeology" program sponsored in recent years by the National Park Service. Field parties of scientists from the Smithsonian Institution, several universities, and State agencies have worked on Indian-village sites in the Missouri River basin. Many of the locations will soon be forever drowned by great new dams being built for flood and drought control.

Village sites with as many as 250 circular depressions indicating earth lodges have been found. Some houses yielded thousands of pottery specimens and tools of stone and bone.

On a Fort Randall Reservoir location in southeastern South Dakota the scientists found a Sioux log-cabin home standing on an old village

When not traveling on duty, he was off on a pleasure or exploring trip.

He saw every New England State except Vermont, and knew New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, his native Virginia, and the Carolinas. Even before the Revolution he traveled parts of Ohio and West Virginia, the latter a region where he hunted buffalo. On occasion he averaged over 35 miles a day for over a week, and once rode 560 miles in sixteen days. His log also included a voyage to Barbados in the British West Indies, made in the mid-1700's.

Farm Has Legends—Ferry Farm, being near the Rappahannock River, got its name from a ferry terminal on the land.

The house was a substantial one. Though less impressive than big estate mansions, it boasted good leather-bottom chairs, mirrors, a modest supply of china, silver, and other luxuries of the period.

George's life was the normal, busy one of a healthy youngster. He took part in the gay social activities on the neighborhood's well-to-do plantations. He studied lessons in reading, writing, and "accounts." He went hunting and horseback riding, and with his brothers swam and fished.

While on the farm George is supposed to have chopped down the cherry tree and to have refused to lie when asked who did it. Bosh to historians, this story appeared in a biography of Washington by Parson M. L. Weems, who had a church near Annapolis, Maryland, after the Revolution. The first edition appeared in 1880, but the cherry-tree story was not inserted until the fiftieth edition.

FROM HARRISON H. DODGE

Another tale has the youth throwing a silver dollar across the Rappahannock. This too seems fiction. It could not have been a United States silver dollar, because no such nation or coin existed then.

The proposal, unsuccessful in the past, to make Ferry Farm a patriotic shrine calls for the purchase of some 50 of the 260 acres which Washington inherited, among other property, at the age of eleven.

Today, nothing remains on Ferry Farm except a stone-lined pit, possibly part of the icehouse, and an old one-room frame building he may have used as his first surveying office.

References—Regions where George Washington traveled may be located on the Society's maps of the Northeastern United States, the North Central United States, and the Southeastern United States.

For further information, see "Washington Lives Again at Valley Forge," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1954; "Mount Vernon Lives On," November, 1953; "The Travels of George Washington," January, 1932; and "The Home of the First Farmer of America," May, 1928.

The French Sculptor Houdon Created an Image from Life of the First American President

ORREN R. LOUDEN

Wakefield, Washington's Birthplace—The house where Washington was born burned when he was a baby. The shrine which now stands on its site reconstructs the typical plantation home of the period. A few pieces of the furniture from the old house stand in new Wakefield which looks across gently sloping lawns to the Potomac, 55 miles down-river from the First President's later home, Mount Vernon.

Bulletin No. 3, February 15, 1954

Shrine to Washington's Boyhood Considered

The approach of George Washington's birthday has renewed discussion about making a patriotic shrine of Ferry Farm, his boyhood home near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

But just when was the Father of his Country born? February 22, 1732, or February 11, 1731? Strangely enough, both dates are correct.

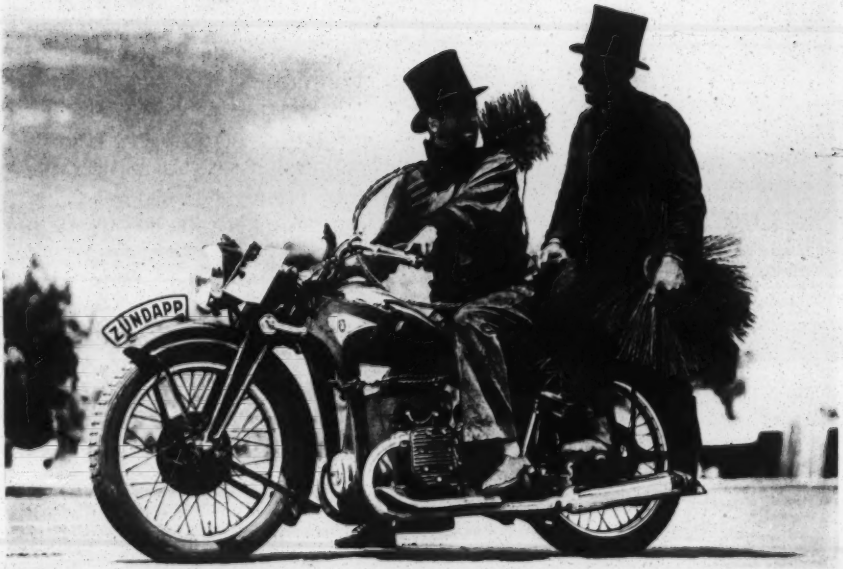
Why Two Birthdays—A change in calendar systems when Washington was a young man accounts for the First President's two birthdays. When he was born at Wakefield, Virginia, the British Empire still used the outmoded Julian calendar. This calendar had been gaining a quarter-day yearly, until it was far out of kilter with scientific time computed from the sun and moon. The Gregorian calendar, worked out in 1582, corrected the matter and many nations in Europe quickly adopted it.

Under the Julian calendar, March 25 was New Year's Day for 1732, which put Washington's February birthday in 1731. Thus when Britain finally switched to the Gregorian calendar in 1752, it not only moved Washington's birthday eleven days later, but technically changed the year of his birth as well.

Colonial dates under the old calendar usually are followed by the words Old Style, or the abbreviation O. S. The same is done with New Style dates. Occasionally both are given.

Regardless of which calendar, George was almost seven when the move to Ferry Farm was made. His travels, many and wide, began not so many years later, but Ferry Farm was home until he acquired Mount Vernon in 1754. With his debut as a surveyor at the age of only sixteen, substantial mileage started to build up.

In that civil capacity, then as an officer in the French and Indian War, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, and finally as First President, he traveled over a larger area than did any official of his time.



LUIS MARDEN

De-sooters Go Mechanized—These Argentine sweeps use a modern motorcycle to speed from job to job. The traditional top hats indicate their ancient trade, a badge still preserved in Germany today where flue-cleaners keep very busy. In some countries sweeps have been declining. One English town was much amused recently when its sweep listed his occupation as "fluonomist," a fancy word for the same thing. The United States has some chimney sweeps, but most use motor suction devices.

Clock watchers rarely do well in school or holding jobs, yet one man in the United States makes a living looking at thousands of public clocks. He swings around the nation, paying each clock a visit four times a year to see if it is keeping perfect time.

Increase in listings for big city telephone directories created the abbreviator job. More than twenty years ago, the New York Telephone Company started a man whittling away at words. Listings that read East Rockaway have been pared to *ERock;* Forest Hills has shrunk to a minimum *FHls.*

The ancient job of chimney sweep still survives, by the way, not only in Europe but in America.

Four men in London enjoy the "all-pay, no-work" status. They are "ale conners," a job created in 1066 after William the Conqueror invaded Britain. The work then called for tasting every new batch of the nut-brown brew prepared. Need for such sampling ceased centuries ago, but each year they ceremoniously draw the $28 they didn't earn.

"Everyday Life in Ancient Times"

A volume compiled by the National Geographic Society brings to life the peoples of the ancient lands where Western civilization originated—Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Illustrated with 120 full-color paintings by H. M. Herget and written by four noted authorities, the 356-page volume is available to schools at $5.00 a copy postpaid in the United States and its possessions, and $5.25 abroad.

UMI

Bulletin No. 4, February 15, 1954

Odd Jobs? The World Offers Plenty

How would you like to make a living watching clocks, or gathering ant eggs, or aging hats? Perhaps a career in a mouse dairy sounds more interesting, or figuring out abbreviations for telephone-book listings.

Odd jobs in the world are legion. People get paid for falling off buses, for riding railroad trains, and tying knots. There are even cases of men being paid for doing nothing at all.

Speak No English—Because he knows no English, a man got the job of operating the special machine which scrubs the tile work in front of one of New York's big buildings. Passers-by asked his predecessor so many questions about the machine that he was given other work.

In the same big city, six men regularly milk 10,000 white mice. The milk totals two quarts a year, worth about $10,000 each, and is used in medical research on dread diseases.

A Texas hat supplier for a Hollywood studio employs a man who mauls the hats to give them whatever worn or battered look the script demands.

No machine yet can match nimble human fingers for tying bows and knots. For those red bows on Valentines, greeting-card companies have to hire expert bow makers. In the machine processing of cords for automobile tires, the cord often breaks, leaving the machine helpless. A cord tier stands by to rejoin the parted ends.

Insects Pay—Collectors of ant eggs and larvae in Finland get $1.50 a pound. A good worker can gather from twenty to twenty-five pounds a day. Both eggs and larvae are good food for pet fishes and birds. In good years Finland has exported more than 100,000 pounds to Great Britain.

A collector needs keen eyesight. Most ant eggs are less than one fiftieth of an inch in length. Even when they have developed into the larger larva stage, they are like tiny grains of wheat or rice.

Italy has a new industry—flea fishing. Many boys and unemployed men earn money at it in the Po River delta's marshes and lakes. The belief is that a century ago a ship back from the Orient emptied into one of the lakes buckets containing Chinese water fleas which multiply by the millions.

Recently someone found these insects a health food for canary birds and tropical fish. They are skimmed off the surface with a fine net. Pet shops in the United States, France, and Germany are on the list of customers.

Hiring a sixty-five-year-old man to tumble from a bus every fifteen minutes may seem heartless. Actually, he works in the interest of safety. Touring London, he dramatizes for audiences the dangers of getting on or off a crowded tram the wrong way. Another safety institution in Britain has been the royal train rider who travels as a passenger to keep check on efficient operations.

Listen or Watch—Tile droppers spend their time dropping tiles on a metal block and listening. Tile makers have found that trained human ears are the best detectors of the sound an imperfect tile makes.

a century and a quarter ago. When Britain finally got around to annexing the Cocos, about the middle of the nineteenth century, Queen Victoria granted the first Clunies Ross a 999-year lease. Since then members of the family have been named governors, with an unusually free hand in the conduct of island affairs.

Fifth Generation Reigns—The present governor, fifth of these "kings," is another John Clunies Ross, twenty-four years old. Oceania House, home of the "royal family," was built more than a century ago of bricks brought from the family's native Scotland.

Ross the First rid the islands of undesirable adventurers, issued currency, made wise local laws to govern his people, and turned the Cocos into an Eden where there was no crime or want. He established the coconut plantations which produce copra and oil, still the main industry. Attempts are being made to increase the output, and the cultivation of groundnuts (peanuts) may bring in additional revenue.

Actually, the administration of the Cocos was directed for many years by the then colony of Ceylon. Eventually, in 1946, it became the responsibility of Britain's Crown Colony of Singapore. Now arrangements are under way to pass sovereignty over the islands to Australia.

The islanders are a mixture of many races, but most are of Malay extraction. Latest available estimates place the population at about 1,000. Most of the workers live, appropriately enough, on Home Island, site also of Oceania House.

Queen Elizabeth II is due at the Cocos in April on her current world tour of British Commonwealths and possessions. Besides seeing a busy colony, she will get two reminders of the type of courage associated with the realm of the first Elizabeth.

Involved in Two World Wars—In the Cocos the German raider, *Emden*, was brought to bay in World War I. Its steel skeleton, long settling in the sand off North Keeling Island, still supplies the islanders with metal. In World War II, the islands stood up under Japanese air attack in spite of their exposed location.

On Direction Island stand the installations of the cable and wireless companies. West Island now has a prefabricated village, sprung up to provide homes for the new residents the airport has brought—employees of the airline, the Department of Civil Aviation, the oil company, and the weather bureau.

Besides its growing importance as an air base, Cocos may soon find itself on the atomic-age map. Some 600 miles east and slightly north is Christmas Island (not to be confused with the Christmas Island south of Hawaii). Between the Cocos and Christmas is the watery end-of-the-line of the 3,000-mile testing range for guided missiles launched from Australia's Woomera research center. Should the full range be brought into use for atomic types, both the Cocos and Christmas are ideally sited for ground-instrument checking and air-observation points.

References—The Cocos Islands may be located on the Society's World Map.

For further information, see "*Yankee* Roams the Orient," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1951; "Unknown New Guinea," March, 1941 (out of print; refer to your library); "At Home on the Oceans," July, 1939; and "Around the World in the 'Islander'," February, 1928.

UMI

HARRY PIDGEON

Cocos Islanders Scan Sea and Sky for Ships—Their only link with the outside world once was a barrel set afloat from a ship. Now airplanes connect Cocos with South Africa and Singapore, as well as with Sydney and London. Ships from Singapore bring aviation fuel and return with copra, chief Cocos export. Loading of a copra ship by whole families is climaxed by a holiday declared by "King" John.

Bulletin No. 5, February 15, 1954

Air Age Makes Key of Remote Cocos

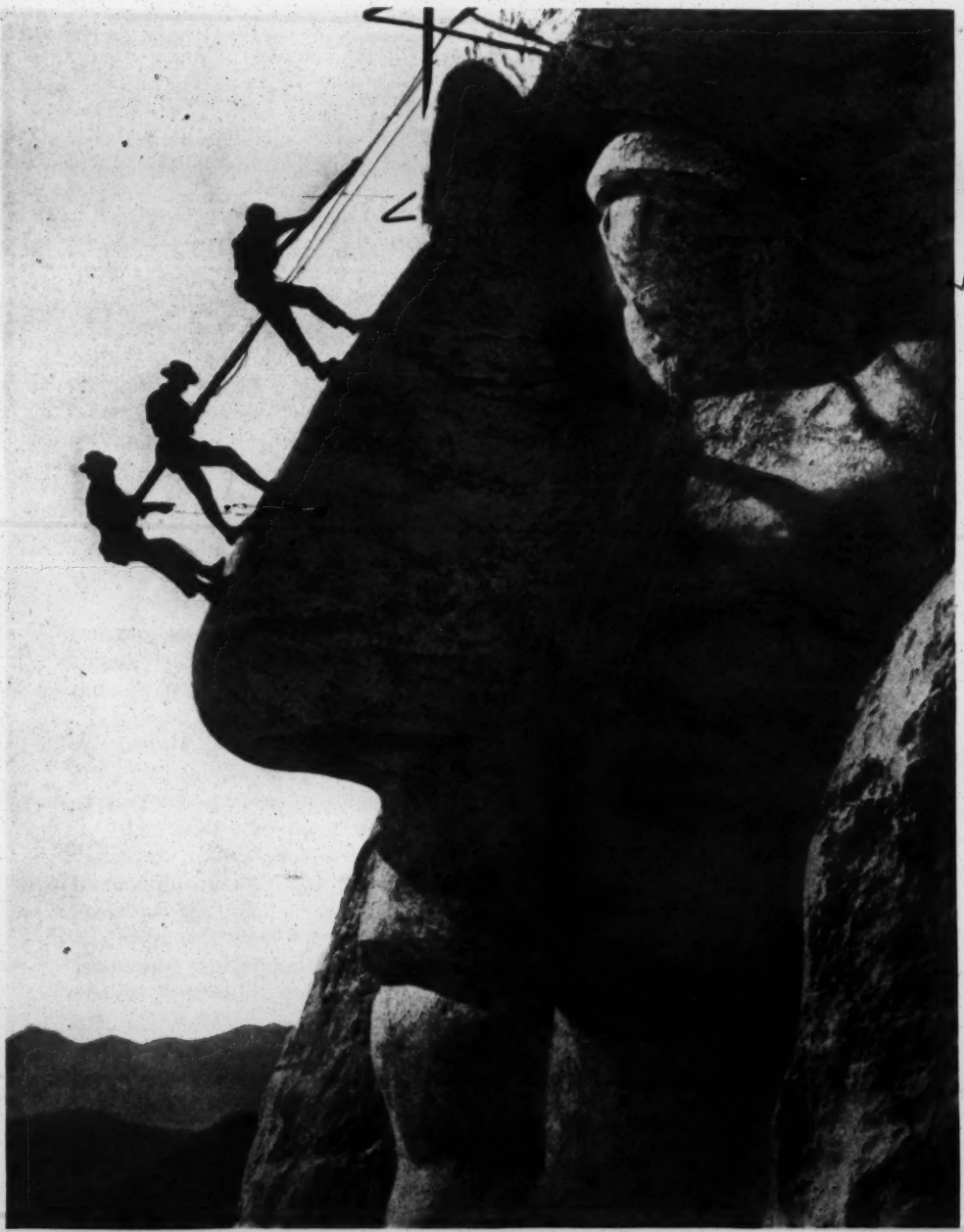
It's a long step from an out-of-the-way coral outpost to a busy and important airbase. However, the little Cocos Islands deep in the Indian Ocean made it in less than a year with the round-the-clock labor of 500 Royal Australian Air Force men.

The islanders, whose mail and supplies had come ashore for years in barrels set afloat from passing ships, now receive the necessities—as well as the luxuries—of life from London and Sydney, in swift planes which swoop to a landing on West Island.

West, about five miles long and a quarter mile wide, is the largest of the twenty-odd islands in the group, most of them uninhabited. At first the archipelago was better known as the Keeling Islands, for Captain William Keeling, who discovered them in 1609. The air age came to West Island during World War II when a flight strip was put in by Australian forces at the high tide of Japanese conquest.

Rule Stays in One Family—The islands, about midway between Australia and Ceylon, rise from the Indian Ocean twelve degrees south of the Equator. The nearest land mass of any size is the western tip of Java, 675 air miles to the northeast.

The nominal ruler of the little archipelago is a descendant of John Clunies Ross, a Scot who established the first permanent settlement there



(SEE BULLETINS NO. 2 AND NO. 3) W. L. HIGHTON

Washington's Impressive Profile Is a South Dakota Landmark—Across the precipitous granite slope of Mount Rushmore, in the Black Hills, the sculptor Gutzon Borglum carved the now-completed heads of four Presidents—Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. Borglum and two stonecutters work on the profile of the First President, whose face, from chin to forehead, measures sixty feet.